

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, GUNTER HARNISCH, ROLF HERRMANN, ANDREAS HULTSCH and HARRY THONIG, hereby declare that we are citizens of Germany and residents of Königsbrück, Sohland and Neukirch, respectively, and that our Post Office Addresses are Seitenpfad 4a, D-01936 Königsbrück, Germany; Haupstrasse 64, D-02689 Sohland, Germany; Georgenbadstrasse 22, D-01904 Neukirch, Germany; and Wilthener Strasse 3, D-01904 Neukirch, Germany, respectively; that we believe we are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
LASER CUTTING SHEET METAL PARTS

the specification of which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s): Priority Claimed

102 45 371.3-14

Germany

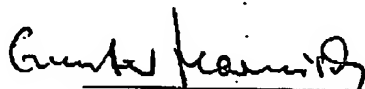
September 28, 2002 Yes X No

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

We hereby appoint Peter L. Costas, Registration No. 18,637, whose Post Office Address is 225 Asylum Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06103, my attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Address all correspondence to Peter L. Costas at the aforesaid address and direct all telephone calls to him at Area Code 860, Telephone No. 241-2630.

29.09.2003

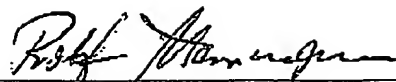
Date


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PLC/27626/999/648405v1
09/24/03-HRT/

30.09.2003

Date



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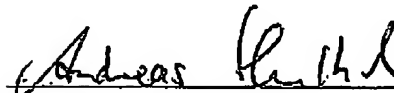
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29.09.2003

Date



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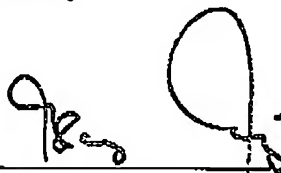
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